

**Suggested Talking Points**  
**for**  
**Mr. Daniel Moore, Acting Deputy Director**  
**Ceremonial Hand-Over of Houses and**  
**Distribution of Non-Food Commodities Gift Certificates**  
***Tagaytay Resettlement Site, Camalig, Albay***  
**June 2, 2008; 10:05 – 12:00 noon**

- Acknowledgements:

Albay Governor Joey Salceda

Camalig Mayor Carlos Irwin Baldo

Charles Harns, Country Representative, International Organization for Migration

Dr. Joseph Michael Singh, Acting Country Director, Save the Children

- Dios Marhay na aga (Good morning!)
- Thank you for your welcome and the opportunity to be with you today.
- First, on behalf of the U.S. Government and the American people, I want to convey my deepest sympathy to those of you who suffered the tragic loss of loved ones, homes, and livelihoods, and experienced the hardships that have come as a result of the deadly landslides and flooding caused by super Typhoon Reming in late 2006.
- We are handing-over 50 houses today because the U.S. Government understands the challenging conditions that many of you are experiencing in your makeshift shelters with the onset of the monsoon season. Remaining beneficiaries will occupy your completed houses as soon as the units are finished.
- This event is an important milestone for the first 50 families who will be occupying your new homes. You've been in limbo for a long time and we hope these new houses will help you now start your lives anew.

- On May 25, 2007, President Bush signed an appropriations law that included \$5 million specifically for typhoon recovery assistance for the Philippines. The request for funds was authored by Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, a long-time friend of the Philippines.
- During last year's Filipino-American Friendship Day, U.S. Ambassador Kristie Kenney personally came to Albay to announce the \$5 million assistance for Bicol, which is helping families in Albay and Camarines Sur to rebuild their lives through USAID grants to Save the Children and International Organization for Migration (or IOM).
- Here in Camalig, IOM is constructing more than 300 houses and a learning center.
- Through the Save the Children grant, more than 3,000 families in this municipality, including those who will be moving into their new homes today, will receive gift certificates for purchase of needed basic household items such as kitchen utensils, mosquito nets, blankets, plastic mats, water containers, flashlights, hygiene kits, and school bags/umbrellas/raincoats for their school children.
- Save the Children is providing training and inputs for small scale livelihood activities to help families have a secure supply of food and incomes. It also supports increasing awareness and participation of local government units, public elementary schools, children and communities in disaster risk reduction.
- I understand that last week, a Children's Summer Camp was successfully held in this municipality for elementary school students of Camalig to help them and their families, as well as their schools, better prepare for natural disasters.
- I want to congratulate everyone here today on helping to make this new beginning possible, and on your great resilience and courage. This occasion represents the best of the Filipino tradition of community spirit and mutual help, or "Bayanihan". This achievement has been a coordinated effort involving many people and organizations.
- I want to emphasize how much we appreciate our partnerships with the Local Government, headed by the very proactive Mayor Baldo who has helped every step of the way, and with the Provincial Government, headed by Gov. Salceda,

who is very committed to making a better life for all Bicolanos. Our deep appreciation also extends to the staff of IOM and Save the Children; and of course to the IDPs who unselfishly volunteered their time and energy in helping build their houses and community.

- In closing, on behalf of the U.S. Government and the American People, I wish you nothing but success as you begin your new lives in these new homes. And I would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the community for your warm welcome today.
- Let me wish the best for each of you.
- Dios Mabalos (Thank you).